

May 20, 1975

CLERK: Motion on the desk Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Alright, read the motion.

CLERK: I move that LB 417 become law notwithstanding the action of the Governor. Signed by Senators Marsh, Schmit, Nichol, DeCamp, Luedtke, Barnett, Fowler, Lewis, Anderson, Bereuter, Chambers, Luedtke and Cavanaugh.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to request that the Governors veto on LB 417 be overridden for various reasons. If you will take this rather long veto message and analyze it very carefully you will find that the Governor refers to many things that we have tried to get together on. I'd like to just clarify a couple matters for you. Concerning the Governors remarks as to the action being taken without public hearing. Certainly the action was taken not only with a public hearing but with one that the whole State of Nebraska viewed on E.T.V. The public hearing did not basically go to the site location of the facility anyway, but rather to the urgency, I stress the urgency, of action this year in this field of penal and correctional modernization. No one appeared in opposition and no one even discussed the ramifications of site, nor did they in the years gone by when we actually . . . when the Judiciary Committee recommended the two site plan which is before you now and which the Legislature has overwhelmingly decided in favor of when they passed LB 417. As to the remark that Mayor Zorinski's advice was not sought, I only hasten to add that neither was the Mayor of Lincoln's advice sought. They could have both come to the hearing if they had interest in what we were doing in this important matter. They were not sought. Also more importantly the bill does not refer to Omaha, the city of Omaha, but to the area of Omaha. In other words, when the site selection is picked for that second unit it could very well be in Sarpy County, in Washington County, it could be wherever else in the Omaha area. That's all it said. Now there's one very important thing. I'm not going to take too long. One very important thing in the Governors veto message and that is as to the charge of "gross underestimates of costs". This is simply not true. It was I who first suggested on the floor of the Legislature when we were debating LB 417, in its initial run, that perhaps the amounts suggested was not enough. As a result of this there were meetings held. Probably some of you observed these meetings which were held right here in the chamber between the Governors staff, between the Department of Correctional Services staff, between the . . . also the Judiciary Committee staff and the Appropriations Committee staff. They met over here on the side and they went over these figures. The critical figure was the area to be utilized in this kind of a building. When they got through with their meeting the summary of the meeting was that there was approximately nine or ten thousand square foot difference between the two buildings that the